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## Voices from the Outer Banks: A Collection of Personal Accounts

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Carney explains that it seemed to her that so much was missing in the way of uncovering, proving and explaining the lives of Cherokee women that she began to seek what she described as “tracing absences”. Carney says, “this study is the result of my ‘tracing absences’ in the lives of Eastern Band Cherokee females in the written history of the United States and attempting to fill in some of the blanks for the record”(p. Preface)

“The completed blanks in this case, are the words of Cherokee women, long neglected and silenced on the pages of history—words that can teach us much about the joys and sorrows of being an Eastern Band Cherokee woman during the past two hundred years.” (p. Preface)  
Providing primary documents and resources to intellectual communities that tell the stories Cherokee women wanted to tell are Carney’s mission in this collection of interviews, stories, letters, and personal biographies. She documents the sources and those who spoke and wrote them. Why? She explained “.... so that Cherokee men and women might gain insights into their past as their women ancestors experienced them”. (p. Preface). She wanted those materials she uncovered to be verified as true and valid.

Carney highlighted for the reader many Cherokee girls and women whom she saw as significant contributors to literature, spoken history, political and cultural development during the 1800s and 1900s. Some of these women were/are Catharine Brown (p.48), Nancy Reece (p. 58), Lottie Smith (p. 86), Arizona Swayney (p. 101) Louisiana (Lula) Owl, (p. 107), Maggie Wachacha (p. 129), Edna Chekelelee (p. 130), Shana Bushyhead (p. 131), Marie Junaluska (p. 131), Lynne Harlan (p. 141), and Joyce Conseen Dugan (p. 153).

As readers, we can find a wealth of resources in the Appendix A and B, in the Notes, in Works Cited and in the Index, p. 175 to 227. Carney’s book is recommended to school and university libraries, museums, and cultural centers with particular emphasis on the Cherokee nation’s political and sociological issues, women’s history, and family and educational history of Native Americans.

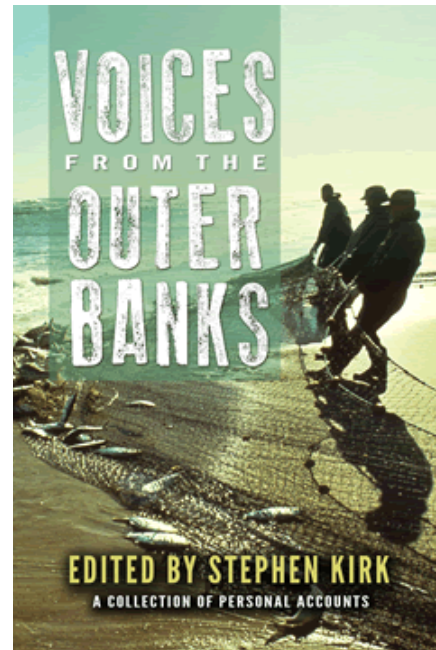
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**Voices from the Outer Banks, A Collection of Personal Accounts.** Edited by Stephen Kirk. Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair Publisher, 2015. ISBN 978-0-89587-644-7. 256 p. \$12.95

Why is a small strip of land off the coast of North Carolina, 391 square miles, with a “year round population of 40,000” residents (Introduction p.1) deserving of a serious research study by Stephen Kirk?

An easy answer once we learn that the in season population “swells to 300,000 and the yearly estimates of beach-goers can rise to 7 million visitors per year... Is it sun, sand, and sea?” (p.1) Stephen Kirk suggests it is the history and

traditions that make the Outer Banks so attractive. He provides fascinating historical reviews and gives us documentary voices from the past spanning the years from July of 1854 to the present day.



Kirk introduces this collection of research and memories by tempting the reader with a fine historical introduction to each of the 14 chapters. He continues by illuminating each historical account with the personal stories he uncovered on the chapter topic.

“Blackbeard and Friends”, “Feral Pony-Sized Horses”, “The Lighthouses”, “The Brothers from Ohio”, “World War Two” and “The National Seashores” quickly became my favorite chapters. Black and white historical photographs, a well-documented map of the North Carolina coastline with each island or significant place identified, followed by Acknowledgements, Notes, General Reading and an Index (p. 140 -254) combine to offer a rich trove for any Outer Banks researcher.

An excellent resource for all libraries—school, college, university and special libraries, Stephen Kirk’s book is also a recommended summer read for anyone visiting the Outer Banks! Take it in your beach bag!

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